

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the examiner has allowed claims 9-14 and has indicated the claims 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action refers to claims 1-14. However, this application as originally filed contains claims 1-17, as shown on the filing receipt. It is therefore requested that the examiner should act on claims 15-17 also. Claims 15-17 are dependent on claim 14. Since claim 14 has been allowed, applicant believes that claims 15-17 are allowable.

Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 over Feldman et al in view of McAllister et al. Claims 1 and 4 have been amended.

Claim 1, as now amended, recites that the discrete resilient contact element is in direct electrically-conductive pressure contact with both the inner conductor of the coaxial cable and the first conductive element on the main face of the dielectric substrate, and the contact element is in a state of compression between the end face of the inner conductor and the first conductive element.

The examiner relies on the connector half 310 of Feldman et al as being an apt counterpart for the discrete resilient contact element of claim 1. The contact half 310 is a metal tube having ground contacts 322 in the wall of the tube for engaging the exterior of a mating connector half 210 having a ground tube 230. A signal pin 330 extends coaxially within the connector half 310 but is not part of, or electrically connected to, the connector half 310. A signal socket contact 216 is located within the connector half 210. When the connector halves 310 and 210 are brought into mating engagement, the contacts 322 engage the ground tube 230 of the connector half 210 and the signal pin 330 engages the signal socket contact 216.

The metal tube of the connector half 310 is not electrically connected to the inner conductor of the coaxial cable 212 and accordingly the examiner cannot rely on characteristics of the metal tube of the connector half 310 to meet the requirements of the discrete resilient contact element recited in claim 1. Feldman et al does not disclose or suggest that the signal pin 330 is resilient.

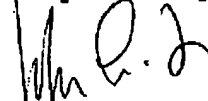
The examiner relies on McAllister et al merely as showing a dielectric substrate having a first conductive element on a main face thereof.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that the invention as defined in claim 1, as originally filed, is not disclosed or suggested by Feldman et al and McAllister et al, whether taken singly or in combination. Therefore, claim 1 as originally filed is patentable.

Even though it is applicant's belief that claim 1 as originally filed is patentable, applicant has nevertheless amended claim 1 to define more closely the manner in which the discrete resilient contact element interacts with the inner conductor and the first conductive element. Thus, claim 1, as now amended, specifies that the contact element is in a state of compression between the end face of the inner conductor and the first conductive element. Feldman et al does not disclose or suggest that the signal pin 330 is in a state of compression or is in electrically-conductive pressure contact with the inner conductor of the coaxial cable 212. For these reasons also, claim 1 is patentable over Feldman et al and McAllister et al, whether taken singly or in combination.

The arguments presented above in support of claim 1 are applicable to claim 4 also. Accordingly, claim 4 is patentable and the dependent claim 6 also is patentable.

Respectfully submitted,



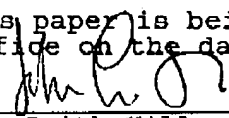
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